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Thread: [Help wiping and clean installing windows onto connections academy laptop](#)

Zornop28 - January 21, 2026, 3:34 am

is there any way i can get access to a connections academy hp probook 450 that is practically locked up regardless of what i attempt without purchasing a new nvme m.2 drive, motherboard, or anything

i do not possess a second computer to get windows onto a usb drive with also, ive tried to wipe the drive but after attempting to reinstall windows it just brought me back to the connections academy startup thing (i am not the owner of this laptop i was given it by somebody and this is my only computer as of the moment)

apologies for bad grammar, bad explanation, and rather poor knowledge on the topic

LiNixx - January 21, 2026, 7:47 am

these are usually secured at the Hardware level, I.E. Windows AutoPilot.... Wiping the drive with clean install does not remove the lock, as the hardware hash is stored in the TPM/firmware, not just the OS drive. can you get into bios at all ?

Your best bet is going to be, if possible, if you can get far enough to install a linux based system, if you can get past the locks or its configured incorrectly or poorly, then Linux would help you continue to use the laptop as your device, BUT if you ever install windows again, as soon as you go online BOOM right back into copilot.

You can either change your motherboard, OR attempt to spoof your HWID there are some products out there, but that's going to be a rabbit hole for you to discover. lol I've never needed to perform this so I could offer no assistance .

Here's one I hear about a lot .

<https://sourceforge.net/projects/hardware-hwid-id-spoofers/>

Cosa Nostra - January 25, 2026, 1:18 am

As OP already said, these are usually locked at the hardware level (Windows Autopilot / MDM). A clean wipe or reinstall won't remove it because the hardware hash lives in TPM/firmware, not just the drive. That's why it keeps pulling you back into the Connections Academy setup.